

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1378

To amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, for the purpose of facilitating compliance by small businesses with certain Federal paperwork requirements, to establish a task force to examine the feasibility of streamlining paperwork requirements applicable to small businesses, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 15, 1999

Mr. VOINOVICH (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, for the purpose of facilitating compliance by small businesses with certain Federal paperwork requirements, to establish a task force to examine the feasibility of streamlining paperwork requirements applicable to small businesses, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Small Business Paper-  
5       work Reduction Act Amendments of 1999”.

1 **SEC. 2. FACILITATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL PA-**  
2 **PERWORK REQUIREMENTS.**

3 (a) REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO THE DIRECTOR  
4 OF OMB.—Section 3504(c) of chapter 35 of title 44,  
5 United States Code (commonly referred to as the “Paper-  
6 work Reduction Act”), is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (4), by striking “; and” and  
8 inserting a semicolon;

9 (2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period and  
10 inserting a semicolon; and

11 (3) by adding at the end the following new  
12 paragraphs:

13 “(6) publish in the Federal Register on an an-  
14 nual basis a list of the requirements applicable to  
15 small-business concerns (within the meaning of sec-  
16 tion 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et  
17 seq.)) with respect to collection of information by  
18 agencies, organized by North American Industrial  
19 Classification System code and industrial/sector de-  
20 scription (as published by the Office of Management  
21 and Budget), with the first such publication occur-  
22 ring not later than one year after the date of the en-  
23 actment of the Small Business Paperwork Reduction  
24 Act Amendments of 1999; and

25 “(7) make available on the Internet, not later  
26 than one year after the date of the enactment of

1       such Act, the list of requirements described in para-  
 2       graph (6).”.

3       (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF AGENCY POINT OF CON-  
 4       TACT; SUSPENSION OF FINES FOR FIRST-TIME PAPER-  
 5       WORK VIOLATIONS.—Section 3506 of such chapter is  
 6       amended by adding at the end the following new sub-  
 7       section:

8       “(i)(1) In addition to the requirements described in  
 9       subsection (c), each agency shall, with respect to the col-  
 10      lection of information and the control of paperwork—

11           “(A) establish one point of contact in the agen-  
 12      cy to act as a liaison between the agency and small-  
 13      business concerns (within the meaning of section 3  
 14      of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.));  
 15      and

16           “(B) in any case of a first-time violation by a  
 17      small-business concern of a requirement regarding  
 18      collection of information by the agency, provide that  
 19      no civil fine shall be imposed on the small-business  
 20      concern unless, based on the particular facts and cir-  
 21      cumstances regarding the violation—

22           “(i) the head of the agency determines that  
 23      the violation has the potential to cause serious  
 24      harm to the public interest;

1           “(ii) the head of the agency determines  
2           that failure to impose a civil fine would impede  
3           or interfere with the detection of criminal activ-  
4           ity;

5           “(iii) the violation is a violation of an in-  
6           ternal revenue law or a law concerning the as-  
7           sessment or collection of any tax, debt, revenue,  
8           or receipt;

9           “(iv) the violation is not corrected on or  
10          before the date that is six months after the date  
11          of receipt by the small-business concern of noti-  
12          fication of the violation in writing from the  
13          agency; or

14          “(v) except as provided in paragraph (2),  
15          the head of the agency determines that the vio-  
16          lation presents a danger to the public health or  
17          safety.

18          “(2)(A) In any case in which the head of an agency  
19          determines that a first-time violation by a small-business  
20          concern of a requirement regarding the collection of infor-  
21          mation presents a danger to the public health or safety,  
22          the head of the agency may, notwithstanding paragraph  
23          (1)(B)(v), determine that a civil fine should not be im-  
24          posed on the small-business concern if the violation is cor-

1 rected within 24 hours of receipt of notice in writing by  
2 the small-business concern of the violation.

3 “(B) In determining whether to provide a small-busi-  
4 ness concern with 24 hours to correct a violation under  
5 subparagraph (A), the head of the agency shall take into  
6 account all of the facts and circumstances regarding the  
7 violation, including—

8 “(i) the nature and seriousness of the violation,  
9 including whether the violation is technical or inad-  
10 vertent or involves willful or criminal conduct;

11 “(ii) whether the small-business concern has  
12 made a good faith effort to comply with applicable  
13 laws, and to remedy the violation within the shortest  
14 practicable period of time;

15 “(iii) the previous compliance history of the  
16 small-business concern, including whether the small-  
17 business concern, its owner or owners, or its prin-  
18 cipal officers have been subject to past enforcement  
19 actions; and

20 “(iv) whether the small-business concern has  
21 obtained a significant economic benefit from the vio-  
22 lation.

23 “(3) In any case in which the head of the agency im-  
24 poses a civil fine on a small-business concern for a first-  
25 time violation of a requirement regarding collection of in-

1 formation which the agency head has determined presents  
 2 a danger to the public health or safety, and does not pro-  
 3 vide the small-business concern with 24 hours to correct  
 4 the violation, the head of the agency shall notify Congress  
 5 regarding such determination not later than 60 days after  
 6 the date that the civil fine is imposed by the agency.

7 “(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no  
 8 State may impose a civil penalty on a small-business con-  
 9 cern, in the case of a first-time violation by the small-busi-  
 10 ness concern of a requirement regarding collection of in-  
 11 formation under Federal law, in a manner inconsistent  
 12 with the provisions of this subsection.”.

13 (c) ADDITIONAL REDUCTION OF PAPERWORK FOR  
 14 CERTAIN SMALL BUSINESSES.—Section 3506(c) of title  
 15 44, United States Code, is amended—

16 (1) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “; and”  
 17 and inserting a semicolon;

18 (2) in paragraph (3)(J), by striking the period  
 19 and inserting “; and”; and

20 (3) by adding at the end the following new  
 21 paragraph:

22 “(4) in addition to the requirements of this  
 23 chapter regarding the reduction of paperwork for  
 24 small-business concerns (within the meaning of sec-  
 25 tion 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et

1       seq.)), make efforts to further reduce the paperwork  
2       burden for small-business concerns with fewer than  
3       25 employees.”.

4   **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE TO STUDY**  
5                   **STREAMLINING OF PAPERWORK REQUIRE-**  
6                   **MENTS FOR SMALL-BUSINESS CONCERNS.**

7       (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 35 of title 44, United  
8       States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the  
9       following new section:

10   **“§ 3521. Establishment of task force on feasibility of**  
11                   **streamlining information collection re-**  
12                   **quirements**

13       “(a) There is hereby established a task force to study  
14       the feasibility of streamlining requirements with respect  
15       to small-business concerns regarding collection of informa-  
16       tion (in this section referred to as the ‘task force’).

17       “(b) The members of the task force shall be ap-  
18       pointed by the Director, and shall include the following:

19               “(1) At least two representatives of the Depart-  
20       ment of Labor, including one representative of the  
21       Bureau of Labor Statistics and one representative of  
22       the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

23               “(2) At least one representative of the Environ-  
24       mental Protection Agency.

1           “(3) At least one representative of the Depart-  
2           ment of Transportation.

3           “(4) At least one representative of the Office of  
4           Advocacy of the Small Business Administration.

5           “(5) At least one representative of each of two  
6           agencies other than the Department of Labor, the  
7           Environmental Protection Agency, the Department  
8           of Transportation, and the Small Business Adminis-  
9           tration.

10          “(6) At least two representatives of the Depart-  
11          ment of Health and Human Services, including one  
12          representative of the Health Care Financing Admin-  
13          istration.

14          “(c) The task force shall examine the feasibility of  
15          requiring each agency to consolidate requirements regard-  
16          ing collections of information with respect to small-busi-  
17          ness concerns, in order that each small-business concern  
18          may submit all information required by the agency—

19               “(1) to one point of contact in the agency;

20               “(2) in a single format, or using a single elec-  
21          tronic reporting system, with respect to the agency;  
22          and

23               “(3) on the same date.

24          “(d) Not later than one year after the date of the  
25          enactment of the Small Business Paperwork Reduction



1 Act Amendments of 1999, the task force shall submit a  
 2 report of its findings under subsection (c) to the chairmen  
 3 and ranking minority members of the Committee on Gov-  
 4 ernment Reform and Oversight and the Committee on  
 5 Small Business of the House of Representatives, and the  
 6 Committee on Governmental Affairs and the Committee  
 7 on Small Business of the Senate.

8 “(e) As used in this section, the term ‘small-business  
 9 concern’ has the meaning given that term under section  
 10 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.).”.

11 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
 12 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended by add-  
 13 ing at the end the following new item:

“3521. Establishment of task force on feasibility of streamlining information  
 collection requirements.”.

